

DE News

November 9, 2001 – Iowa Department of Education – Ted Stilwill, Director

Results of the Special Session

Governor Vilsack and legislators agreed at the Special Session yesterday to restore funding to state priority areas, including a portion to education, that were cut as a result of the 4.3% across-the-board budget reduction earlier this month.

- The 4.3% reduction will stay in effect for school district and AEA state foundation aid.
- However, state leaders restored the full amount to the following categorical funding:
 1. Educational Excellence
 2. Class Size/Early Intervention
 3. School Improvement Technology
 4. Child Development Coordinating Council grant
 5. Instructional support
- Partial funding in the amount of \$1 million general aid was restored to community colleges. Remember that community college technology is not part of the general fund, so it is not subject to the across-the-board cut.

Other Provisions:

- Flexibility in the use of certain K-12 funds: The restoration bill provides school districts flexibility in the use of certain funding for the FY02 fiscal year. The language reads that for school improvement technology, class size/early intervention and Phase III of education excellence that “the board of directors of a school district may use the categorical state funding identified in this section and received by the district, for any school general fund purpose.”
- Language was included in the bill, as was included in legislation passed during the 2001 session, to allow area education agencies to shift funding to maintain special education funding as required by federal law.

Budget details on the Web

Reductions go into effect this month, and additional information will come with November 15 state aid payments. For a quick look at how the reductions will impact each district or community college, please visit the DE Web site at <http://www.state.ia.us/educate/>.

Teacher Quality -- Most districts opt in

We now have more than 350 districts that have applied for Option 2, the career paths and salary portion of the new teacher quality program - which means thousands of teachers, beginning and veteran alike, will benefit from the salary increases and professional development support.

A list of districts participating in Option 1 and Option 2 of the teacher quality initiative will be posted on the DE Web site mid-month.

DE News provides timely information about legislative and policy issues, grants and funding, trends in education, and other items of immediate interest to Iowa educators and policymakers. Contact Kathi Slaughter, 515/281-5651; fax 515/281-4122; email kathi.slaughter@ed.state.ia.us.